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14 June 1955

Handwritten: Christ P-60C

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Testing of Infrared for Night Landing of Helicopters

1. Time and Place of Meeting: 1700, 13 June 1955 to 0100, 14 June 1955 at Quantico, Virginia, HMX-1

2. Attendance: Lt. William R. Green USMC
Col. Percy CO/HMX-1
 WAD
APD

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3. Purpose of the Meeting: To ascertain the feasibility of flying and landing a helicopter by use of infrared

4. Discussion:

Lt. Green had mounted an 18" tank infrared searchlight on the port side of a Sikorski HRS-3 helicopter and testing proceeded as follows:

The copilot was equipped with one pair of infrared binoculars. The light, which draws approximately 36 amperes, was turned on for approach of the landing. The copilot then attempted to talk the pilot in. A considerable number of passes were made, alternating pilot and copilot. After several attempts were made, a critique was held on the ground.

5. Conclusions:

It would be highly desirable to have a light with a broader beam. Also, it would be helpful if the direction of the light could be changed while in the air. It is believed that with a broader beam it would be necessary to up the wattage of the light. It would be desirable to incorporate in the binoculars a vernier focussing arrangement to facilitate bringing into focus, fairly rapidly, moving objects. The headgear of the current binoculars is entirely unsatisfactory for the purpose for which it was designed and it is believed that no headgear would be necessary. It would be desirable to have a broader field of view in the binoculars. From the above, it might be concluded that the

binoculars

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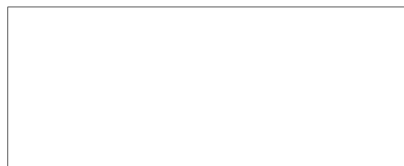
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binoculars were of little or no value in their present form which is an erroneous conclusion as blind landings were accomplished.

6. Actions:

APD should ascertain the feasibility of making the changes mentioned in the conclusions (5.).

WAD should request that a project be set up in APD to cover this usage of infrared gear.



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